

BURKHALTER TRAVEL NEWS: JUNE 2019

SCROLL DOWN FOR THESE SECTIONS:

LATEST NEWS -- AIRLINE UPDATES – AIRPORT NEWS – HOTELS – TOOLS, TIPS AND TECHNOLOGY – BURKHALTER TOURS –
BURKHALTER OFFICE LOCATIONS

LATEST NEWS

- **This just in from American Airlines:** “In April, American extended cancellations for the [Boeing 737] MAX through Aug. 19. We are now extending those cancellations through September 3. By extending the cancellations, our customers and team members can more reliably plan their upcoming travel on American. In total, approximately 115 flights per day will be canceled through Sept. 3.”
- **In more 737 Max news,** representatives from more than 30 countries met recently with U.S. Federal Aviation Administration officials to hear about the U.S. regulator's approach to determining when the 737 Max can resume flying. Apparently **the FAA is making no promises.** Some reports—including one from the CEO of Boeing--- indicate it might not happen until the end of the year.
- **TSA lines will be longer this summer.** In addition to the hundreds of Atlanta/ATL Customs and Border Patrol agents that were recently reassigned to various locations along the U.S. southern border, the TSA is seeking volunteers from across the Federal Government to help with the influx of migrants. Some of the volunteers could include Air Marshals and others from the agency’s “Security Ops Unit.” The TSA and Customs and Border Patrol expressed concern that this could result in “turmoil for business and leisure travelers.” Several airline, airport and travel industry groups are urging U.S. Senate leaders to back emergency funding for more officers at airports and ports of entry as we enter a projected record-breaking summer travel season.
- **American Express** recently sent cardholders a reminder about why it’s important to *always* pay their bill on time: “Effective September 1, 2019, you will need to pay your bill by the payment due date, otherwise you may forfeit any Membership Rewards Points earned that period.”
- The TSA has changed its policy to **allow certain CBD oil and medications on planes.** The new rule applies to **FDA-approved** marijuana and products that contain hemp-derived CBD oil, which contains little to no THC, the psychoactive chemical in marijuana. The TSA said the change was prompted by the FDA’s approval of a drug that contains CBD oil, Epidiolex, which is used to treat seizures in children with epilepsy. Other forms of marijuana, including products and CBD oils that contain THC, are still banned.

AIRLINE UPDATES

ALASKA AIRLINES

- South African Airways, the national carrier of South Africa, and Alaska Airlines, the fifth largest airline in the United States, have established a new interline partnership. Travelers can purchase a single itinerary for travel on both carriers between Alaska's North American network and over 75 destinations in Africa served by SAA and its regional partners with connections via New York-John F. Kennedy International Airport and Washington-Dulles International Airport. Ask your Burkhalter agent for details.
- Less than a year after the airport's opening, Alaska Airlines will add a new route to Palm Springs, CA from Washington's Paine Field, with daily service in November. The airline is also adding a second daily flight from Paine Field to Phoenix.
- Alaska Airlines said it plans to build a new 8,500-square-foot lounge on the top floor of Terminal 2 at San Francisco International Airport. The new lounge will feature views of the Bay and the airport's runways.

AMERICAN AIRLINES

- American Airlines has announced they have eliminated their fees on oversized bags for sports and music equipment, effective since May 21. They want to ensure that customers can enjoy their trip without having to worry about oversized bag fees. Customers will be able to check in their common oversized sports and music equipment as standard bags, up to the maximum dimensions and weight allowed, according to American Airline requirements. Read more [here](#).
- American is on a roll: the airline's schedule at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) grew to more than 900 daily flights for the first time this summer. The milestone enables more than 9,000 one-stop travel possibilities through DFW—more than any other airline hub in the world.
- After several years of trying, the American and Qantas joint venture has been tentatively approved. The DOT has decided that this will protect competition and promote public benefits, including additional flights and increased seat availability. Read about it [here](#).
- American is adding 25 new summer routes, including flights to Dubrovnik, Croatia, and Bologna, Italy. Direct flights to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from Dallas-Fort Worth and Charlotte, N.C., are only available from American, and as fall rolls around, the airline will add Mexican destinations Huatulco and Acapulco.

DELTA AIR LINES

- Delta Air Lines announced that Boston Logan International Airport is the airline's newest hub. The Boston hub will serve as a secondary transatlantic gateway. New York is its primary transatlantic gateway.
- In addition to having entertainment on monitors, some Delta passengers on U.S. flights will be able to get entertainment on mobile devices via free Wi-Fi. Delta is taking the first step toward eventually offering free Wi-Fi with a two-week test run on dozens of domestic flights later this month.
- Delta opened its new Delta Sky Club lounge at Austin – Bergstrom International Airport. Located on the mezzanine level of the Barbara Jordan Terminal, the lounge offers guests access to a covered sky deck, a full-service bar, local beer, high-speed Wi-Fi and power outlets at nearly every seat, and art from local Austin artists. [Look here](#) for Sky Club News.
- Delta expanded its airlift from the East Coast to Edinburgh, Scotland. The airline launched its inaugural flight between Edinburgh **and** Scotland and confirmed that its service from JFK will be offered year-round. The daily Boston flight will operate throughout the summer, while the JFK route will extend beyond summer into winter for the first time, creating a year-round service.
- Delta Air Lines is dropping its flights between New York/JFK and Rio de Janeiro. The seasonal route was due to resume in December.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

- Southwest Airlines has obtained more slots at Long Beach Airport, and it plans to use most of them for [new California Corridor service](#). On October 1 Southwest will begin service to Long Beach from Oakland four times a day and from San Jose and Sacramento four times a day on weekdays and three a day on weekends. The airline will also begin Long Beach-Las Vegas service twice a day on weekends, and Long Beach-Denver flights once a day on weekends.
- Southwest, which operates from Terminal 4 at Ontario International Airport in southern California, will add daily service to San Francisco. It also plans to add an additional flight to its current service to Denver on weekdays.

UNITED AIRLINES

- United Airlines has officially moved operations at LaGuardia Airport to the new Terminal B Eastern Concourse, the first phase of the \$4 billion, 1.3-million-square-foot redevelopment project of Terminal B. United will use five gates in the new concourse, providing more than 40 flights a day, including 17 daily departures to Chicago O'Hare and multiple daily flights to its other hubs including Denver, Washington Dulles and Houston Bush Intercontinental.

- United's Star Alliance partner Egyptair is set to launch new service on June 3 between Cairo and United's Washington Dulles hub. The new Cairo flights will operate three days a week, using a 787-9 Dreamliner.
- United made history recently with the departure of the Flight for the Planet, the most eco-friendly commercial flight of its kind in the history of aviation, demonstrating all of these key actions on a single commercial flight: utilization of sustainable aviation biofuel; zero cabin waste efforts; carbon offsetting; and operational efficiencies. The flight departed from gate B12 at United's hometown hub of Chicago O'Hare for its "eco-hub" in Los Angeles, where sustainable aviation biofuel has helped [power all the airline's flights](#) from the Southern California hub since 2016.
- United Airlines team of aviation mechanics and technicians is "taking the airline industry to new heights." United's Chix Fix is an all-female team of aviation technicians that is challenging the status quo. The team of 10 is the [first commercial, all-female team](#) to compete at the Aerospace Maintenance Competition, an international event designed to test competitors' aerospace skills.

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES

- On 24 May 2019, Brazil's civil aviation regulator ANAC **suspended all flights** and operations of **Avianca Brasil** "as a precautionary measure" due to safety concerns. ANAC reported that flights will remain suspended until the airline proves it is able to operate safely. The carrier is required to reimburse or rebook customers who have existing reservations with the airline with other carriers. The airline had been operating approximately 30 flights per day at the time of the suspension.
- **British Airways** announced they'll be **devaluing their award chart** for partner flights with one month's notice, but refused to tell customers what the new chart would look like. Look for the sketchy details [here](#).
- **El Al Israel Airlines** and **Alaska Airlines** announced plans for a **reciprocal frequent-flyer program agreement**. The agreement complements the current codeshare agreement between the two companies that recently went into effect. The move allows members of El Al's Matmid frequent-flyer program and Alaska's Mileage Plan program to earn and eventually redeem miles on the other's flights. Base miles flown on El Al will count towards elite status in Mileage Plan.
- **Lufthansa** will be the first airline in the world to equip all long-haul aircraft with the **mobile EKG (Electrocardiogram) system**, CardioSecur. In the event of on-board medical emergencies, the compact, intuitive system will allow flight attendants without cardiological expertise to record an EKG for passengers and send the test results directly to a medical hotline on the ground. The system was initially tested in 2018 on the A380 fleet and it will now be available for medical emergencies on all long-haul aircraft within the Lufthansa fleet.

- Star Alliance partners **Air Canada** and **United Airlines** are temporarily **curtailing flights to Delhi**. Air Canada has closed its Toronto route from June 15 to August 29. United, which was due to resume its Newark route starting July 3, has now pushed the resumption date back to August 1.
- **Qantas** is launching flights specifically dedicated to frequent flyers. It hopes to operate several frequent flyer redemption flights with seats only available to its members. The airline is confident it can fill seats even though the first 'Points Plane' will be operated by an Airbus A380 superjumbo. It takes off from Melbourne to Tokyo Narita on October 21, 2019.

AIRPORT NEWS

- **Airport security company Clear** has made **Boston Logan** the 29th U.S. airport where it operates biometric security screening. Flyers with a Clear membership can now be ushered to the front of the line at Logan's Terminal A security checkpoint after undergoing a quick iris scan or fingerprint check at one of Clear's biometric-enabled kiosks. Clear membership costs \$179 per year. Delta SkyMiles members get a discount at \$99. Steeper discounts are available to Delta customers with status.
- Passengers travelling through **London's Heathrow airport** will be able to keep their liquids and laptops inside their bags once new security equipment is installed. The airport is investing £50 million in the computer tomography (CT) security scanners, to be rolled out over the next three years, which will be able to provide a clear picture of a bag's contents. Heathrow first began testing the CT scanners, which are similar to those used in hospitals, in 2017 and it plans to complete the roll out by 2022. The technology is already being used in the U.S., including Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson airport and Chicago O'Hare. The US Transportation Security Administration hopes to deploy 300 of the scanners by 2020.
- **Thailand Immigration** has activated the **fingerprint scanners** they installed at their airport points of entry earlier this year. A full set of prints (3 scans) and a photograph will be collected at the checkpoint. Arriving passengers should expect excessive wait times, especially at peak hours.
- There are now 29 restaurants in the U.S. (and several more internationally) that offer a **dining credit** of \$15-30 for **Priority Pass** members and up to two guests. The default is \$28 per guest in the U.S., so if the dining credit isn't \$28 for a particular restaurant, it will be noted (International Priority Pass restaurants vary). Look for details and a list of participating airports [here](#).
- **New York/LaGuardia** reached another milestone on June 2 when United shifted its [operations to five new gates](#) at the Terminal B Eastern Concourse. Also opened: a 10,500-square-foot United Club. Air Canada, United's code-share and Star Alliance partner, moved into the new terminal area late last year.

- **Jacksonville**, Florida, has a new common-use lounge. The Club, operated by the same company that manages Priority Pass, is a 3,000-square-foot operation located in **Concourse A near Gate A1**.
- Airports across the U.S. are embracing vending machines, which can offer an array of products that appeal to travelers while taking up relatively little space. The newly renovated **Terminal B at New York's LaGuardia Airport** features a row of vending machines selling puffer jackets, upscale candy and trial-size toiletry kits.

HOTEL UPDATES

- Taco Bell has never lacked creativity in marketing its brand to customers, but the restaurant chain's latest ploy is one nobody saw coming. This summer the Yum Brands subsidiary will launch a **limited-time boutique hotel dubbed The Bell**. Guest rooms, breakfast options, and poolside drinks will sport a Taco Bell twist, according to the company. The hotel will be located in Palm Springs, California.
- **Marriott International** is expanding its presence in **the Asia Pacific luxury market** with 13 new hotels set to open this year. JW Marriott, Ritz-Carlton, St. Regis, and Luxury Collection brands will all expand on the region, joining its current portfolio of 130 luxury properties.
- The 219-room **Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia** at Comcast Center will open its doors August 12 on the top 12 floors of a 60-story skyscraper and replacing the former Four Seasons Philadelphia near Logan Square. The 60th floor features the reception area and JG SkyHigh cocktail lounge, while the 57th floor will be home to an infinity pool, spa and wellness space.
- Those **miniature bottles of toiletries** that many guests take home from hotels are in the sights of legislators and hotels that are trying to reduce the environmental impact of plastic waste. Hotel industry officials say the bottles are slowly being replaced by refillable dispensers typically mounted on the shower wall.
- The 94-room **Comfort Inn Long Island City** has opened in that neighborhood a short subway ride from Manhattan. The hotel offers free breakfast and Wi-Fi, and a fitness center.
- **Radisson Blu Forest Manor Shanghai Hongqiao** has opened with 439 rooms a half mile from Shanghai's National Exhibition and Convention Center and two miles from Hongqiao International Airport.

TOOLS, TIPS AND TECHNOLOGY

- **What's the latest with the UK's Brexit?** Good question! Beleaguered Prime Minister Theresa May resigned recently and the field of candidates vying to replace her currently numbers 10 among Conservatives. Whoever ultimately wins will be faced with the unfinished Brexit issue and the looming October 31 deadline to come up with a solution.
- If you're **heading to Rome this summer**, be aware that visitors to that city are being hit with a raft of [new rules and regulations](#) that ban everything from jumping in historic fountains to wandering around bare-chested (apparently men do this in hot weather...) and sucking on public water fountain spouts. Exasperated by the sometimes "unexpected" behavior of tourists, city authorities are cracking down on visitors eating messy snacks in public places and even bouncing wheeled suitcases down the staircases of historic monuments such as the Spanish Steps (they say it chips the marble edges).
- Which **hotel chains** offer **free Wi-Fi service**? [Read this.](#)
- Visitors to **Sweden** now can use Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental and Alamo Rent A Car brands, picking up cars at Stockholm's Arlanda Airport. Travelers can take advantage of usage-reward customer programs, such as Enterprise Plus and National Car Rental's Emerald Club.
- **Self-driving wheelchairs** that can **navigate busy airports** and avoid obstacles are under test at Tokyo's Narita airport to help passengers with mobility issues get between flights. The project between All Nippon Airways and Panasonic Corp. is using the semi-robotic electric wheelchairs to increase mobility and accessibility options that give passengers more independence when navigating the bustling airport.
- Here's a look at personal item and [carry-on size limits](#) for 10 major U.S. airlines and 20 top international carriers.
- Worried about missing a flight at LAX? A new [Twitter account](#) managed by the airport could help you gauge how long it'll take to get to your gate. Announced last month, the new account is up-and-running. Once every 30 minutes it posts updates on traffic in and around the airport, as well as availability in each of the airport's parking lots. Every 15 minutes, you can find updated wait times for security screenings at all eight terminals. Those estimates haven't been available in the past and are being provided through a pilot program with a tech startup called Plot.
- If you know someone who travels with **a guide dog**, this [recently updated TSA information](#) can be helpful.

New This Month! **BURKHALTER TRAVEL SPECIALS**

Burkhalter Travel has specialized in memorable vacations for decades, and this month's Travel Specials are no exception! Our biggest challenge—month after month—is selecting “only” three vacations to showcase in the News! Explore this Month's Specials, daydream a bit, and then call any of our offices (look for contact details on the next page). We can make it happen!

Plan Ahead!

If you're a traveler who likes to **plan your vacations well in advance of departure**, you're in luck! You can save up to \$750 per person when you book early on select 2020 *Adventures by Disney* vacations. Booking early--- (by July 13, or before quantities run out) ---from an exciting selection will pay Big Bonuses! Whether you're planning a dream family vacation or looking for a more sophisticated getaway with other Guests 18 years and older, you can save up to \$750 per person for select departure dates February 17, 2020 through March 14, 2021! The possibilities are immense, but the clock is ticking---you have until July 13 to capture this special offer! Look [here](#) for details! *Booking deadline is 7/13/19 for 2020, 2021 departures.*

Just Do It!

For more impulsive **“Let's Just Do It!”** travelers, this 7-Day **Western Caribbean Norwegian Breakaway Sailing** offers Miami 2019 departure dates in late July, August and September to enticing ports of call that are off the well-traveled Caribbean cruise trail: Roatan Bay Islands, Honduras; Harvest Caye, Belize; Costa Maya, Mexico; Cozumel, Mexico; with a return to Miami. Book a Balcony Stateroom at a terrific price and score an up-to-\$100 per stateroom onboard credit. And there's plenty more to love: With no schedule to follow but your own on your Norwegian sailing, you're free to dine, dance, laugh, explore and relax when you want, where you want. Thanks to the flexibility of no fixed dining times or pre-assigned seating, you have the freedom to enjoy more dining options than days of your cruise. You'll find details [here](#)—*booking deadline is June 30.*

Australia: Beautiful One Day, Perfect the Next

Even the most seasoned travelers will agree that Australia is a Bucket List destination. If it's at the top of YOUR list, NOW is the time to go! Burkhalter Travel has years of experience sending travelers to the captivating “Land Down Under” (and traveling there ourselves), so whether you want to combine a few days in Sydney with the amazing outdoor adventures and immersive cultural experiences of the Northern Territory, or you'd rather unleash your wanderlust in Queensland, exploring Brisbane's art, food, and theater scene, experiencing the spectacular Gold Coast, Great Barrier Reef, pristine beaches and lush rainforests, or mixing and mingling with enchanting wildlife—we can make it happen! Look [here](#) for details! *Booking deadline is 7/31/19 for travel throughout March 31, 2020*

BURKHALTER TRAVEL COMPANIES OFFICE LOCATIONS

Madison West

6501 Mineral Point Road
608-833-5200/800-556-9286

Fitchburg

3050 Cahill Main
608-441-0151/888-522-4269

Stoughton

Chalet Travel, 226 S. Forrest
608-873-8133/800-733-6970

Madison East

615A North Sherman Avenue
608-241-7500/800-414-7166

Prairie du Sac

180 Washington Street
608-643-4599/800-242-8457

Brookfield

Olson Travel, 200 S. Executive Dr.
Suite 101
262-782-0110/800-847-5921

Oregon

763 N. Main Street
608-835-8474/800-537-0419

Baraboo

141 Third Avenue
608-356-4999/800-660-8359

Dubuque IA

Travel Headquarters, 2095 JFK Rd
563-588-3456/800-383-0563

Visit our website at www.burkhaltertravel.com

Burkhalter Travel News is researched, edited, and written by [Betty W. Stark](#)

To unsubscribe, send an e-mail to [Burkhalter Travel Agency](#) with "remove from e-list" in the subject line.